

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of performing a regression test of ordered test cases, comprising:  
assigning a result record to each of a plurality of candidate test cases, said result record  
including test results from testing said each of said plurality of candidate test cases  
against a design model;  
selecting said ordered test cases from said plurality of candidate test cases according to  
said test results in said result record of said each of said plurality of candidate test  
cases;  
testing said ordered test cases against a current design model; and  
updating said result record of each of said ordered test cases in response to new test  
results from said testing.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting said ordered test cases  
comprises:  
excluding noninsightful ones of said plurality of candidate test cases from said ordered  
test cases; and  
preferentially ordering remaining ones of said plurality of candidate test cases to form  
ordered test cases.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said excluding comprises excluding one or  
more of said plurality of candidate test cases when said result record specifies at least one  
of test case waived, test case currently executing, test case unable to complete previous  
execution attempt, test case previously executed on current design model, and previously  
identified bug detected in said test case not fixed in current design model.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein preferentially ordering includes preferring  
ones of said remaining ones of said plurality of candidate test cases having above-average  
coverage of said current design model.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein preferentially ordering includes preferring ones of said remaining ones of said plurality of candidate test cases having shorter testing duration on said design model.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein preferentially ordering includes preferring not previously executed ones of said remaining ones of said plurality of candidate test cases.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein preferentially ordering includes preferring ones of said remaining ones of said plurality of candidate test cases having longer idle durations.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein preferentially ordering includes preferring ones of said remaining ones of said plurality of candidate test cases having greater failing histories.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein said preferentially ordering comprises:  
dividing said remaining ones of said plurality of candidate test cases into shorter execution ones and longer execution ones;  
separately ordering said shorter execution ones into shorter-execution ordered test cases and said longer execution ones into longer-execution ordered test cases; and  
interleaving said shorter-execution ordered test cases and said longer-execution ordered test cases to form ordered test cases.

10. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing regression test of ordered test cases, said test comprising instructions for: assigning a result record to each of a plurality of candidate test cases, said result record including test results from testing said each of said plurality of candidate test cases against a design model; selecting said ordered test cases from said plurality of candidate test cases according to said test results in said result record of said each of said plurality of candidate test cases; testing said ordered test cases against a current design model; and updating said result record of said ordered test cases in response to new test results from said testing.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said computer-executable instructions for selecting said ordered test cases comprises computer-executable instructions for: excluding noninsightful ones of said plurality of candidate test cases from said ordered test cases; and preferentially ordering remaining ones of said plurality of test cases to form ordered test cases.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said computer-executable instructions for excluding comprise computer-executable instructions for excluding one or more of said plurality of candidate test cases when said result record specifies at least one of test case waived, test case currently executing, test case unable to complete previous execution attempt, test case previously executed on current design model, and previously identified bug detected in said test case not fixed in current design model.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein said computer-executable instructions for preferentially ordering comprise computer-executable instructions for preferring ones of said remaining ones of said plurality of test cases having above-average coverage of said current design model.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein said computer-executable instructions for preferentially ordering comprise computer-executable instructions for preferring ones of said remaining ones of said plurality of test cases having shorter testing duration on said design model.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein said computer-executable instructions for preferentially ordering comprise computer-executable instructions for preferring not previously executed ones of said remaining ones of said plurality of test cases.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein said computer-executable instructions for preferentially ordering comprise computer-executable instructions for preferring ones of said remaining ones of said plurality of test cases having longer idle durations.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein said computer-executable instructions for preferentially ordering comprise computer-executable instructions for preferring ones of said remaining ones of said plurality of test cases having greater failing histories.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein said computer-executable instructions for preferentially ordering comprise computer-executable instructions for:

dividing said remaining ones of said plurality of test cases into shorter execution ones and longer execution ones;

separately ordering said shorter execution ones into shorter-execution ordered test cases

and said longer execution ones into longer-execution ordered test cases; and

interleaving said shorter-execution ordered test cases and said longer-execution test cases to form ordered test cases.

19. An ordered regression test system, comprising:

a test case database including a plurality of candidate test cases, each one of said plurality of candidate test cases including a result record including test results from testing said one of said plurality of test cases against a design model;

a test case ordering process to select said ordered test cases from said plurality of candidate test cases according to said test results in said result record of said each of said plurality of candidate test cases;

a current design model to undergo regression testing; and

one or more testers for testing said ordered test cases against a current design model and generating new test results to update said result record.

20. The ordered regression test system of claim 19, further comprising a tester scheduling process operably coupled between said test case ordering process and said one or more testers, said tester scheduling process configured to distribute portions of said ordered test cases for execution among said one or more testers.

21. An ordered regression test system, comprising:  
means for assigning a result record to each of a plurality of candidate test cases, said result record including test results from testing said each of said plurality of candidate test cases against a design model;  
means for selecting said ordered test cases from said plurality of candidate test cases according to said test results in said result record of said each of said plurality of candidate test cases;  
means for testing said ordered test cases against a current design model; and  
means for updating said result record of said ordered test cases in response to new test results from said testing.